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More Details of New Health Insurance

By JOHN CRAMER

(Second of 3 articles)

Here are more official Civil Service Commission answers to question about the new Federal employee health-hospital insurance program which goes into effect next July 1.

Federal Fidgets

Benefits

Q. What benefits will each of the plans offer?

A. The law does not spell out the exact benefits for any of the plans, so this question cannot be specifically answered at this time. The law does require each of the two Government-wide plans to offer the employee a choice or option between two levels of benefits.

The employee organization plans and the group and individual-practice pre-payment plans may or may not offer options between various levels of benefits.

Q. What will be the difference between the two options offered by each of the Government-wide plans?

A. There will be two main differences. First, one option will offer lesser benefits than the other; and second, the option with lesser benefits will cost less.

However, all options of the Government-wide plans will include both "basic health" and "catastrophic" coverage.

Q. What is meant by "basic health" coverage which each of the options under the Government-wide plans must include?



A. This is the kind of coverage most people now have. It gives some protection against the more common kinds of hospital and surgical expenses.

Q. What is meant by "catastrophic" coverage?

A. Catastrophic coverage gives some protection against

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the more unusual and heavy expense of a serious or prolonged illness. It often includes such costly items as long periods of hospitalization, expensive operations, private nurses, medical care received at home, drugs and medicines, medical supplies and equipment, etc.

Q. Will the employee organization plans and the group and individual-practice pre-payment plans include catastrophic coverage?

A. Many may, but the law does not require them to.

Cost

Q. I have health benefits now. Will I be able to save any money if I enroll under the new law?

A. If you enroll in a plan or option with approximately the same benefits you now have, you would save money because the Government will be contributing part of the cost.

However, many employees will be able to enroll in a plan which offers much better benefits and will cost more than the plans they now have. But, because the Government will be contributing part of

the extra cost, they will be paying approximately the same amount as they do now.

Q. How much will the Government contribute toward the cost of my coverage?

A. Except in the situation explained in the next question, the Government will contribute not less than these specified amounts: \$2.80 a month if you enroll for yourself only; \$6.75 a month if you enroll for yourself and family.

Q. How much will the Government contribute for a female employee?

A. The Government's contribution for a female employee will be on exactly the same basis as for a male employee under the following conditions:

If she enrolls for herself only.

If she enrolls for herself and family and the family does not include a husband or does include a dependent husband.

Q. How much will the Government contribute for a female employee under a family enrollment which includes a husband who is not dependent?

A. In such a case the Government will contribute not less than \$3.90 a month if the total charge for the family enrollment is \$13.50 or more a month. The employee will contribute the difference between \$3.90 and the total charge.

If the female employee enrolls in a plan the total charge for which is less than \$13.50 a month for the family enrollment, the Government will contribute 30 per cent of the charge and the employee will contribute 70 per cent.

Tomorrow: More insurance questions and answers.